THE

Norfolk Congress:

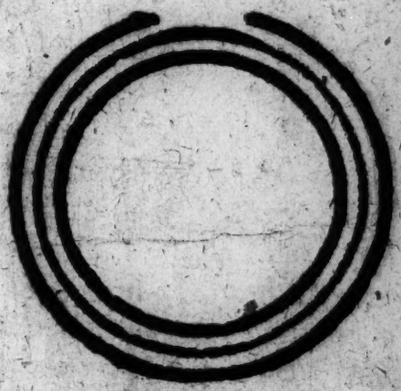
OR,

A Full and True

ACCOUNT

OF

Their *Hunting*, *Feasting* and *Merry making*; being singularly delightful and likewise very instructive to PUBLICK,



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THE

Norfolk Congreſs, &c.

HUnting and *Feaſting* are both celebrated in Holy Writ. *Nimrod* was a mighty Hunter before the Lord; and the hairy *Eſau* is ſaid to be a *cunning Hunter*. Kings and Princes have delighted in this ſport in all Ages; and the *two moſt eminent Perſons* of this our Day are now hunting; one of them at *Fountinblow* and the other in *Norfolk*. Feaſting is likewiſe ſo far from being contrary to our Religion, that we find the *Iſraelites* often commanded to make ſolemn *Feaſts* or *Feſtivals*, *viz.* the Feaſt of *Harveſt*, the Feaſt of *Tabernacles*, with many others too tedious to be enumerated.

Foraſmuch therefore as it hath been always cuſtomary, in this kingdom, for *Great Men*, in times of *publick proſperity*, to give *Feaſts* unto the People and make publick Rejoycings, ſo doth it behove alſo ſuch as are ſufficient for the purpoſe aptly to deſcribe and with proper Phraſe and gorgeous ſhew of Words to ſet forth ſuch Magnificence, that the memory thereof may not be loſt to after-Ages.

Many plentiful Entertainments hath our Friend *Hollingſhead* ſerved up in his delightful Hiſtory, particularly one of the Arch-Biſhop of *York* and alſo many of the famous Cardinal *Wolſey*, who when he went to his Country Seat, took ſo many of the Nobility and Gentry with him (who were indeed all a kind of *menial* Attendants) that he left the *Court* almoſt like a *Deſart*, and the *King* his Maſter ſeemed quite *neglected*.

But how ſumptuous ſoever the Entertainments were of this *proud* and *haughty Cardinal*, we ſhall not find them in any degree of compariſon with that, which we are now attempting (though I fear with barren and ſapleſs ſtile) to deſcribe.

Reaſonable indeed is it that *great* and *able Men*, who by their Induſtry and Application have procured many *Bleſſings* to their Country, ſhould ſometimes relax their Minds and ſhare thoſe bleſſings which they have been the means of procuring.

Who

Who therefore, if his Heart doth not burn with *Envy* and *Malice*, can enter the Houſe of this *great* and *good Man*, now ſojourning and merry-making in *Norfolk*, without ſaying, *Peace be within theſe Walls?* for he hath procured *Peace* unto the Kingdom. Who is there that doth not rejoice at the *Plenty* that is within his Palace? for he hath ſtrewed Plenty over the Face of the Land. To him our *preſent Tranquility* is owing and the ſteddy Happineſs of our *preſent Circumſtances*. Through his Care the *Husbandman* ſoweth with Profit and the *Merchant* ſaileth with Safety. How comfortable likewiſe is it unto the People to ſee their *Governours* indulge themſelves in *Eaſe*, *Divrſions* and *Pleaſures*, which like the playing and ſinging of Mariners, is a ſure ſign that the Ship is ſafe and in a *Calm*.

This great *Feaſt* or *Feſtival* certainly exceedeth all that ever went before it, both in reſpect to its Plenty and Politeneſs; for if we regard the Number and Value of the *Horſes*, the Staunchneſs and Goodneſs of the *Hounds*: or the Wit and Humour of the *Company*, we ſhall be at a loſs to know which merits moſt our Commendation; for from this *Society* might be called Perſons, for their *Wiſdom* and *Valour*, fit either to compoſe a *Cabinet Council*, command *Fleets* and *Armies* or be *Plenipotentiaries* at any Congreſs in Chriſtendom. But, above all, let us commend the Cooks; for the *Cooks* of *Norfolk* have been eminent for many Ages!

Proceed we now to give ſome Particulars of this noble Entertainment.

The *Breakfaſt* or *Prelliminary Courſe* is made up of cold Veniſon Paſties, Hams, Tongues, Tea, Chocolate, with a Mixture of many other Delicacies, inſomuch that it hath been generally called an *Ambigu*, which being interpreted in our Language ſignifies ſomething *doubtful* in its Nature or which *nobody knows what to make of*. At this Courſe the Converſation run chiefly upon hunting a *Vixon* or *She Fox*, which they were determined to purſue thro' all the Brakes, thick Woods and Covers ſhe could lead them. They got on Horſeback and reſolved to ride over Hedge and Ditch after her, not regarding the He-Fox that belong'd to her, who kept always burrow'd in his *Earth* and never *ſtirr'd Abroa*.

After a very long and waariſome Chaſe, they found that they could make nothing of this ſame *Vixon*; for ſhe baffled all their Hounds and tired them and all their Horſes. By way of excuſe they pretended that during the whole Chaſe a large *Eagle* flew over *her* head and protected *her* from the Dogs. The *chief huntſman* tells an incredibly ſtory. He ſays that he ſaw this *Eagle* once make a ſtoop to a *foundling Child*, that lay in the way, and that he fed the Child with *Bologna Sauſages*, in the manner that we often ſee it repreſented in our *Signs*. But the Huntſman being known to be a great *Gunſter*, the Company did not ſeem inclined to believe him. The

The *Dinner* consisted of many hundred Dishes all replenish'd with most excellent Viands, of great prodigality and delicious flavour: To express the sumptuousness or variety of it is impossible, but some of the most remarkable dishes will I adventure to relate.

In the first place there was an *Hotch-Potch*, which consisted of *Westphalia Bacon*, *English Beef*, *Dutch Pickle Herrings* and *French* [illegible]. It seem'd very strong, but few People reliſh'd it; for it could not sit well on the stomachs.

Over-against this was placed a *Spaniſh Ollio*, with an huge *Ostrich* in the middle of it. It was made chiefly with *Garlick*, *Giblet-hare*, and many other ingredients, all seasoned with certain Spices brought from the *East-Indies*.

There was also a *Peace-Soop*, filled with Balls of *Forced meat*.

A *Cardinal* (which is a most rare Fish, often mention'd by HORACE tho' scarcely known in *England*) was placed super-eminently on a ring of Gold in the midst of the Table, and round it was seen many *Gudgeons*.

Next came a pompous *Pye*, with *young Cockrils* upon it, curiously form'd in paste, with an *Olive Branch* in his mouth, signifying, as the Neighbours would have it the *Peace*, which the young King of *France* was to give to *England*; for *Gallus*, as we have been inform'd in the ancient Language of the renown'd *Romans*, signifieth both a Cock and a *Frenchman*.

There was likewise a *Pruſſian wild Boar's Head*, with an *Orange* in his mouth.

The *Maſter of the Houſe* himself fed chiefly on STOCK-*Fiſh* and PLUMB-*Dumpling*. On one side of him stood a Porringer of Viper-broth, and on the other a Bisk of *Pidgeons*, denoting the *Wiſdom of the Serpent* and the *innocency of the Dove*.

The Sallad consisted entirely of SALLARY and PENNY-ROYAL, which all the Guests devoured very greedily.

There was one Dish that stock'd many of the spectators, which was an *Engliſh Collar of Brawn*, stuck with *French Lillies*, instead of Rosemary. At this many were offended, and said the times were hugely changed with our *Landlord* and his *Taſte*, and *way of Living* strangely alter'd: for they remember'd when he had like to have overturn'd the whole Table, upon seeing some *French Kickſhaws* upon it, which he said was poison to an *Engliſh Conſtitution*. But now, forsooth, nothing but *French Sauces* will go down, and he loves every thing garreen'd, but particulary *Tongues*, when they are so, which we should call *corrupted*.

But how vain would be an attempt to describe the whole of this Entertainment. All was elegant sumptious and polite, tha' no *deſert* ever appeared at it. The *Wines*, which came from all parts of the

World,

Would, were like the Maſter, *rich* and *generous*. *Burgundy* and *Norfolk Nog* were equally plenty, and all the neighbourhood were invited to partake of it, except the poor Handy-CRAFTSMEN.

Now, what can we do better at the end of this our little Hiſtory, than to pray for the Proſperity of this great *Feaſter* and his *illuſtrious Family*?

The PRAYER.

PRevent them therefore, O Lord, in all their Doings: *Turn their* Hearts *and enlighten their* Underſtandings; *that from henceforth, knowing whoſe* Miniſters *they are, and whoſe Authority they bear, they may bring forth the Fruits of* good Living, *to the honour and glory of his* Majeſty, *and the ſafety of* theſe Kingdoms; *and may that* Peace, *which* paſſeth all Underſtanding, *make them* Hang *together in Unity and A-Cord, and let all the People ſay,* Amen.

FINIS.